REMARKS

The application has been amended to place the application in condition for allowance at the time of the next Official Action.

Claims 1-29 were previously pending in the application. Claims 1-29 are canceled and replaced with new claims 30-40.

Claims 1-3, 5, 8-13, 17-19, 21-24, 26 and 27 are rejected as unpatentable over applicant's disclosed prior art in view of JP 2000-196060 (JP '060).

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested because the proposed combination of references does not teach or suggest a first insulating layer covering shift register electrodes and filling a first gap, the first insulating layer having a first thickness over an upper surface of each of the shift register electrodes. The references also fail to teach a second insulating layer covering peripheral electrodes and filling a second gap, the second insulating layer having a second thickness over an upper surface of each of the peripheral electrodes, the second thickness being larger than the first thickness as recited in new claim 30.

By way of example, Figures 16B and 16C of the present application show a first insulating layer 306 covering the shift register electrodes 328. The first insulating layer fills the first gap (between adjacent shift register electrodes). See elements 304, 318. The first insulating layer has a first

thickness over an upper surface of each of the shift register electrodes. Figure 16C further shows a second insulating layer 318 covering the peripheral electrodes 330 and filling the second gap (between adjacent peripheral electrodes). The second insulating layer 318 has a second thickness over an upper surface of each of the peripheral electrodes. The second thickness is larger than the first thickness.

Applicant's disclosed prior art Figures 4B and 4C show shift register electrodes 828 and peripheral electrodes 830. These electrodes 828, 830 are covered by insulating layer 806. As seen in Figures 4B and 4C, insulating layer 806 has the same thickness over the upper surface of each of the electrodes 828 and electrodes 830. Applicant's disclosed prior art does not teach or suggest a second insulating layer covering peripheral electrodes and having a thickness larger than the first thickness (of an insulating layer covering shift register electrodes).

JP '060 is only offered for the teaching of a two-layer insulation structure and does not teach or suggest the first insulating layer covering shift register electrodes and having a first thickness and a second insulating layer covering peripheral electrodes and having a second thickness larger than the first thickness as recited.

The above-noted feature is missing from each of the references, is absent from the combination, and thus would not have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art.

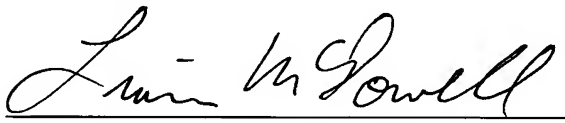
New claims 31-40 depend from claim 30 and further define the invention and are also believed patentable over the cited prior art at least for the reasons that claim 30 is believed patentable over the cited prior art.

In view of the present amendment and the foregoing remarks, it is believed that the present application has been placed in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

YOUNG & THOMPSON



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